

Claims

What is claimed is:

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1. An array of agents attached to an optical fiber, wherein each agent is attached to a pre-determined portion of the optical fiber.
 2. The array of claim 1 wherein the agents are chemical compounds.
 - 10 3. The array of claim 1 wherein the agents are proteins.
 4. The array of claim 1 wherein the agents are peptides.
 - 15 5. The array of claim 1 wherein the agents are polynucleotides.
 6. The array of claim 1 wherein the optical fiber is divided into reactant regions.
 7. The array of claim 1 wherein the optical fiber comprises a cladding.
 - 20 8. The array of claim 7 wherein the cladding is a sol-gel matrix.
 9. The array of claim 7 wherein the cladding is a polymer.
 10. The array of claim 1 wherein the optical fiber is derivatized.
 - 25 11. The array of claim 10 wherein the optical fiber is aminopropylsilylated.
 12. The array of claim 10 wherein the optical fiber is silylated.

13. The array of claim 1 wherein the optical fiber is coated with at least one layer of cladding.

14. A method of preparing an array of agents on an optical fiber, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an optical fiber with reactive functional groups;
attaching agents to optical fiber.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the step of providing comprises the steps of:

providing an optical fiber; and
derivatizing the fiber to provide reactive functional groups.

16. The method of preparing an array of chemical compounds on an optical fiber, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an optical fiber with reactive functional groups;
dividing the fiber into regions;
subjecting each region to reaction conditions so as to attach reactive moieties or to modify the functional groups; and
repeating previous two steps until the desired array of chemical compounds is obtained.

17. A method of analyzing an array of agents on an optical fiber, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a linear array of agents on an optical fiber, such that the identity of each of the agents is a function of distance with respect to the start of the array;
assaying agents in the array to detect those compounds having a desired activity;
exciting agents with a light source; and
detecting specific agents by reaction to light.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the step of assaying comprises contacting a fluorescent species with the array.

19. A system for analyzing an array of agents on an optical fiber comprising:
an array of agents linearly arranged on an optical fiber;
a light source to deliver photons to the array; and
a light detector to receive a signal from the array.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein the light source is a laser.

21. The system of claim 19 wherein the light source is a pulsed laser diode.

22. The system of claim 19 wherein the light source is an LED.

23. The system of claim 19 wherein the detector is a photomultiplier tube.

24. The system of claim 19 wherein the detector is a charge coupled device.

25. The system of claim 19 wherein the detector is a photodiode array.

26. The system of claim 23, 24, or 25 wherein the detector further comprises a filter.

27. The system of claim 23, 24, or 25 wherein the detector further comprises a monochromator.

28. A system for analyzing an array of agents on an optical fiber comprising:
an array of agents linearly arranged on an optical fiber;
a light source to deliver photons into the optical fiber; and
a light detector to receive a signal from the agents on the optical fiber.

29. A method of analyzing an array of agents on an optical fiber, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a linear array of agents on a first optical fiber, such that the identity of each of the agents is a function of distance with respect to the start of the array;

providing a second optical fiber;

assaying agents in the array to detect those compounds having a desired activity;

5 exciting agents with a light source using one of the two fibers; and

detecting specific agents by reaction to light using the other of the two fibers.

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